

North or South, who loved his fellow rejoiced. But the statesman took up at Appomattox a problem more serious than that the soldier had laid down.

In the history of the world great movements have ever been slow of development and the struggle up from slavery was but begun when upon the statute books of the land the negro was promised the equal protection of the law which America grants to every free born citizen. Then it was that the Southland became the hunting ground of the "carpet-bagger." Nor was the struggle ended when three years later, in 1870, the negro was given full and equal heirship at the ballot and clothed with every privilege of government.

Like the prisoner of tradition who watched his cell close slowly in from day to day, the southern whites watched the remorseless approach of negro rule. They saw the fair political structure, the work of America's greatest statesmen falling to ruin at the touch of a black hand. The social pyramid was set upon its apex. Could it stand? As well might Congress attempt to contravene the law of gravitation as decree that Africa should rule the sons of Jefferson and Clay and Calhoun!

The history of those days is writ. The waste and anguish, the passion and the pain have burned themselves to ashes. The clearer insight of tomorrow must render judgment on those dark years; we are yet too near their shadow. But, heirs of the mistakes, even as of the glorious achievements of other days, together, North and South, we face this problem, the greatest ever placed before a people; the problem of leading up from slavery to the safe possession of their inheritance over nine million negroes. Can we solve it? The God who gave it to us, He alone can know. This we do know that only shoulder to shoulder, heart to heart, Massachusetts and Virginia, Oregon and Alabama, can we render back this problem solved.

Every age and generation has had its grave questions of state; questions upon which seemed to hinge the fate of the country, of civilization, of the world. Such is the question which confronts us. There are in the South today nearly ten million negroes. More than half can neither read nor write; ignorant,